

Marathon moves back to West Bloomfield

Midwest runners won't have to travel 900 miles and jostle with 8,000 fellow competitors to take advantage of the year's most ideal weather for marathoning.

The West Bloomfield Marathon will be held this year in Oakland County at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 20 — the day before the famous Boston event.

For the fourth straight year, the race is being coordinated by the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Department with co-sponsorship by Vic Tanny International. The course, 26 miles, 355 yards, will be entirely within the boundaries of West Bloomfield Township.

Entry forms for the marathon are available at the Parks and Recreation

Department, 3325 Middlebelt Road, West Bloomfield, Mich. 48093. Applicants are asked to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope when requesting the forms.

Entries at \$5 a person must be received by 5 p.m. on April 14. There will be no registration on the day of the race. Additional information may be obtained by calling 334-5860.

All proceeds from the marathon will be donated to the West Bloomfield Emergency Medical Service.

This year marks a change in both date and course for the West Bloomfield Marathon, which was first held on March 13, 1977 with the idea of giving the many local runners a close-to-home distance event.

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SPORTS

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RECOUNTING THE history of the event, Chuck Proulx, race co-ordinator and recreation staff member, explained that the inaugural marathon in 1977 fell on a perfect day weather-wise.

"It seemed like the ideal time for a marathon here," he said. "It fell just six weeks before the Boston event — a good way for runners to practice up and still have time enough to recover for that one in April."

The following year, snow banks piled high along the two-lane West Bloomfield roads forced race officials to relocate the race to Detroit's Belle Isle at the last minute.

Realizing that it would never be possible to depend on a March date in West Bloomfield, the department stayed with the Belle Isle course again in 1979 — but polled the participants on the time and place for the 1980 race. A majority indicated that an April date in West Bloomfield was a good choice.

The new West Bloomfield course, measured by John Gault and Mark Mauman of Flint's River Bend Striders, is an out-and-back route, which begins and ends at West Bloomfield High School on Orchard Lake

Road, approximately 4 1/2 miles north of the Orchard Lake exit off I-696.

Race officials plan to complete the process necessary for Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) course certification next year. AAU membership will not be a pre-requisite for the race.

THE COURSE covers paved and unpaved roads. It is rolling, but has no steep or long hills.

A course map is included on the back of the application blank.

Trophies and medals will go to winners in five divisions for men and three for women. Certificates for all finishers with final times noted will be

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KATHY TEMPLE
N. Farmington



SUANNE CASILLO
N. Farmington

NF gymnasts rate All-Area standing

By C.J. RISAK

When any high school All-Star teams are chosen, seniors normally dominate. More experience, better coordination, improved strength and increased confidence are usually the reasons prep athletes perform better in their senior years.

But that isn't so in the 1980 Observer & Eccentric All-Area gymnastic team.

Only one senior made the first team — North Farmington's Suanne Casillo. Three were juniors: Kathy Temple of North Farmington and Christy Schwarz and Missy Otterbein of Bloomfield Hills Andover. And one freshman was also chosen — Kathy Michaels of Troy.

Despite their rather youthful status, the trend for picking underclassmen in gymnastics is not a new one. Last year two sophomores, Temple in all-around and Schwarz in uneven parallel bars, were on the first team.

As first criteria for picking the All-Area team, our coaches' panel went on performance at the state meet. The top all-around competitor at the championship meet from this area was, again, North's Temple.

Last year as a sophomore, Temple won the state all-around title and also finished first in the bars. She was unable to defend her all-around title this season, as East Kentwood's Jodi Thompson topped her. Temple finished second.

SHE DID win the bars competition, tied for first in the balance beam (with teammate Casillo) and grabbed a second in the floor exercise.

The bars "are definitely her strongest event," according to North coach Mary Johnesse. Even though she's still a junior, several colleges have started contacting Temple about a possible scholarship.

Casillo turned in one of her best performances ever on the beam to the Temple at state meet. "She was pretty strong in the vault all year," Johnesse said. But this year, she made the O&E team in the beam.

Ironically, in last year's state meet, Casillo had a terrible time on the beam and finished last in the 34 girl competition. She made up for that this season. Casillo has also taken sixth two straight years in the state meet in the bars.

Temple and Casillo played key roles in North's 1979 state championship team. This year, the team didn't have the depth to make it past the regionals, but Temple and Casillo advanced to the state competition on their individual performances.

For the second straight year, Schwarz was picked to the O&E team in the bars. She finished second at the regionals and third at state in the event, both times being edged by Temple.

"THAT (BARS) AND the balance beam were her best," Andover coach Bill Patton said. "But her favorite was the bars."

What made Schwarz's ability remarkable was two stress fractures of her back, which she has been competing with for the past two seasons.

"We took everything out of her routine that bothered her," Patton said of the injury. It never seemed to cause her problems on the bars — she made All-American classification by scoring 8.6 in the event in at least five meets this season.

Otterbein placed sixth at the state meet for the floor exercise, the event that put her on the O&E team. The junior rallied well after a disappointing 11th place finish in the regionals.

A team captain, Otterbein made her presence felt off the mat as well. "She really kept the team going," Patton said. "She was always after them to improve."

Troy has top coach

Troy's third-place finish in the state meet was the key factor in the coaches' panel choosing Sandy Smith as the Observer & Eccentric gymnastic Coach of the Year.

Smith is in her fifth year at the helm at Troy. Prior to that, she was an assistant coach at Troy when the team last won a state gymnastics title (1974).

A graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in physical education, Smith guided Troy to a 10-1 dual meet record and a state regional championship. The team's only dual meet setback came against Royal Oak Dondora.

"And we beat them in both the regionals and state meet," Smith pointed out.

Girl looks good at Harrison

Prep netters gear up

By TOM BAER



John Kerr perfects his strokes during a recent practice at Farmington High School. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Nancy Green forfeited a lot of easy glory last fall when she decided to sit out the girls' tennis season at Farmington Harrison High in favor of a chance with the boys' squad this spring.

Green, who didn't lose a match in dual meets during her junior year, would have been one of the state's strongest players in girls' tennis as a senior. A state championship wouldn't have been out of the question.

But she opted for the boys' game where the competition is more to her liking. And Harrison coach Bernie Goldstein is glad to have her.

"She doesn't play a girls' game, she plays a guy's game," said Goldstein, who coached Green for two seasons on the girls' team. "She hits hard and she plays a strong net game."

"I don't think Nancy will lose too many, especially at No. 2 singles. She's been looking good. She almost beat our No. 1 singles player in a challenge match."

Harrison, which opens April 16 at Farmington High, has another strong singles player in senior Dave McDevitt, who played at No. 1 last season. Senior Rick Kovan and sophomore Dave Brady are two more singles prospects.

Goldstein has some experienced doubles players. Seniors Dave Hawthorne and Mark Miller make up doubles team, while senior Narendra Bhagat and junior Andrew Berk compose another.

LAST YEAR, Harrison finished second to Northville in the Western Six League. That's the usual order of finish in the six-team circuit. Northville looks tough again, and Plymouth Canton is improved. But Goldstein feels his team has a good chance to win its first WSL boys' tennis championship.

His assessment: "We could be hefties this year."

At North Farmington High, Norm Stanisewski's tennis team has a Northwest Suburban League title to defend. And the coach feels he has the personnel — five returning lettermen and some talented underclassmen — with which to defend it.

"We should be competitive again," Stanisewski said. "I think we have a lot of depth — a lot of evenly-matched players."

Experienced singles players include seniors Mike Schupp and Kurt Lackey, both all-NSL players last year, and senior Jeff White. Juniors Joe Montana and Glenn Glicker got plenty of playing time last season.

Other prospects: Juniors Jim Ross, Rich McDaniel, Dave Livon, Don VanCott and Robert Cornfield; sophomores Joe McBeth, Howard Headlee, Evan Hughes, John Pierog, Mike Gaskill and John Grisdale.

Stanisewski is optimistic about his sophomore players.

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All-Area Gymnastics Team

PLAYER	POSITION	SCHOOL
Kathy Temple	All-around	N. Farmington
Kathy Michaels	Vaulting	Troy
Christy Schwarz	Uneven bars	B.H. Andover
Suanne Casillo	Balance beam	N. Farmington
Missy Otterbein	Floor exercise	B.H. Andover

SECOND TEAM

Lisa Boes	All-around	Troy
Jill McBride	Vaulting	Birmingham Seaholm
Michele Smith	Uneven bars	Troy
Lora Ohanian	Balance beam	Troy
Dee Dee Johnson	Floor exercise	B.H. Lahser

HONORABLE MENTION

Vaulting — Janet Thibodeau, Farmington Harrison; Beth Olsen, B.H. Andover; Beatrice Hickey, Rochester Adams. Uneven bars — Lisa Romero, B.H. Lahser; Linda Potter, Birmingham Seaholm. Balance beam — Holly Hesterkamp, Troy Athens; Kathy Purcell, Farmington Harrison; Lori Meyer, Troy. Floor exercise — Barb Burke, W.L. Central; Brigitte Dunn, Troy Athens; Trisha Laine, B.H. Lahser.

COACH OF THE YEAR — Sandy Smith, Troy

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